United Nations S/PV.7798

Security Council

Seventy-first year

Provisional

7798th meeting

Monday, 31 October 2016, 12.45 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Churkin	(Russian Federation)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	China	Mr. Shen Bo
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Japan	Mr. Akahori
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Senegal	Mr. Ciss
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramirez Carreño

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

Letter dated 21 October 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2016/888)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

16-35153 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 12.45 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

Letter dated 21 October 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2016/888)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2016/888, which contains a letter dated 21 October 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2016/905, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Angola, China, Egypt, France, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2314 (2016).

I now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements after the vote.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): The United States welcomes the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM). This brief extension is intended to give the Council additional time to ensure the renewal of the JIM mandate for another year.

The Council faces some very difficult decisions around its core responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. This should not be one of them. All of us need only recall the situation before the JIM was created to address chemical weapons allegations in Syria. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons was able to tell us that chemical weapons were used, but there was no mechanism to ascertain who was using them. As a result, users of chemical weapons felt that they enjoyed complete impunity. The international system had a huge gap in its prevention and response architecture.

The work of the JIM is critically important to identifying the individuals, entities, groups or Governments involved in chemical weapons attacks. That information is invaluable to the Council, to the international community and to the victims of those dreadful attacks. Last Thursday's Council briefing by the JIM panel and Under-Secretary-General Kim Won-soo was deeply sobering. As we all know, the JIM affirmed yet another incident in which the Al-Assad regime used chemical weapons. That was the third attack in which the JIM has reached that conclusion. There is credible evidence that there have been many more chemical weapons attacks by the regime. In other words, an independent, impartial body of experts operating under a mandate of the Security Council has determined unambiguously that a State Member of the United Nations has repeatedly used chemical weapons against its own people.

The JIM has also found the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) at fault for the chemical weapons attack on Marea. We have seen the allegations of additional use and agree that use by terrorists poses a profound threat. Use by ISIL is yet one more affirmation of the importance of the United States-led coalition's fight against that monstrous group. We reaffirm the importance of the JIM maintaining its mandate to investigate alleged use by any actors, whether they by the Syrian air force or terrorist groups.

Lest we lose sight of the effects of such weapons, I will give one example from the many first-hand accounts. Here is what a doctor observed after an incident on 10 August in which a helicopter reportedly dropped a barrel bomb containing a toxic chemical on Aleppo's Zabdiya neighbourhood. He said that at first, two children and their mother arrived at the hospital.

> "The children were unconscious and unresponsive. Their mother was shivering, coughing and wheezing. She could barely breathe and was drooling heavily from her mouth. Her

clothes were covered in a wet substance with a sharp smell, like chlorine. The two kids went into cardiac arrest after around 15 minutes. We tried to resuscitate them, to no avail. Five minutes later, the mother also died."

The question is, why would the Council not want to know who was involved in those attacks? Why would we stop the work of the JIM when there are multiple credible allegations of the use of chemical weapons that have yet to be fully investigated? And why would we stop a group whose findings could one day help to hold accountable those involved in such grotesque acts? The answer is simple. We must condemn and hold responsible whomever is involved in those chemical-weapon attacks. The JIM is a key tool for helping us to do that. We cannot pinpoint its precise deterrent value, but we can say that in the year since it was created, the number of reported attacks has significantly decreased.

Now, even a single chemical-weapon attack is one too many, but why would any Council member risk going back to the world we had before the JIM, when there were many more such attacks? Why would we create a new gap in the international system? Others may argue that we should broaden the JIM's mandate so as to focus on multiple countries. To take time and resources from the JIM's work in Syria would constitute a significant distraction and further delay its critical work. The JIM was set up in Syria for a specific reason — to find out who was involved — and for that reason it should remain focused on Syria. We look forward to discussions in the next few days. It is imperative that the JIM be allowed to continue this critically important and unfinished work.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of the Russian Federation.

The Russian delegation found it possible today to support the short-term technical extension of the mandate of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mission (JIM) on the use of chemical weapons in Syria. We are grateful to the authors of resolution 2314 (2016) for their understanding of our position, which has enabled us to preserve the constructive spirit of the work on the Syrian chemical-weapons dossier, as represented by resolutions 2118 (2013) and 2235 (2016).

We took this step in the belief that during the interval provided for in the new resolution, Council members will be able to have a thorough discussion of possible ways to improve the JIM, based on the experience that has been gained, and to address the systemic shortcomings that were revealed during the presentation of the reports on its results. We submitted our detailed comments on them to a wide audience after the Council's consultations on 27 October, and they are available to all, so I will not repeat them now. We do not intend to be severely critical of the Mechanism's leadership, since we realize that it was obliged to present at least some of the results of its work and was not able to do that convincingly, given the circumstances.

No one should resort to chemical weapons. The scale of the threat of chemical terrorism in the Middle East should put the international community on alert and force it to come up with an appropriate response. Thanks to the serious military conflicts in the region, terrorists have learned to synthesize complex poisonous agents and are able to transport them across borders, exploiting weakened State control and often with assistance from outsiders. We firmly believe that in such circumstances, the JIM's geographic scope should not be limited to Syria alone and that it should focus its thrust on the military and chemical danger posed by non-State actors in general and terrorists in particular.

It would make sense to invite Syria's neighbours to cooperate fully with the Mechanism in its fulfilment of its mandate and to inform it about any activities of non-State actors relating to chemical weapons. It should trace occurrences and conduct impartial investigations. This will mean collaborating productively with all the States in the region, many of which are already experiencing the negative effects of chemical terrorism attacks.

If at the next stage of this discussion the members of the Security Council consider the JIM's continued work under a reoriented mandate appropriate, it will be important to avoid the politicization of the issue that has so far seriously hindered the work of the Mechanism. Everyone should understand that this is not a toy for yet again enabling someone to criticize the Syrian Government, which, as we know, has already begun to investigate the JIM's findings at the national level.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom welcomes the unanimous adoption today of resolution 2314 (2016). Its short-term extension of the

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) was needed to allow additional time for the Council to continue its consultations on a full renewal of the JIM's mandate for another year.

The continuing need for the JIM is painfully clear. The pattern of chemical attacks in Syria continues. The Fact-Finding Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is currently investigating at least four cases that have arisen since August. The OPCW will not itself be able to identify the perpetrators of those attacks. Both the Syrian Government and Da'esh have been blamed, and that is precisely why we first created the JIM and why its work remains as important now as it was more than a year ago, when we adopted its first mandate to fill the gap in the international architecture for attributing responsibility for the use of chemical weapons that had been proven by the OPCW.

Thanks to the JIM's hard work, we know without doubt who is responsible for killing and maiming civilians in Syria with chemical weapons. It has now been conclusively demonstrated that both the Al-Assad regime and Da'esh have used chemical weapons against civilians in Syria. Those weapons continue to be used in flagrant violation of international norms and laws, and at complete odds with basic human decency. Such barbaric weapons had no place on the battlefield 100 years ago, never mind today. But in the light of the continuing use of chemical weapons, it is imperative that we retain the JIM, both to act as some sort of deterrent and to determine who is responsible for such attacks. It is simply not good enough to determine whether chemical-weapon attacks have occurred without knowing who was responsible. We need to know who was responsible in order to bring them to justice. As I have said on many previous occasions, there must be accountability for every single person involved in any use of chemical weapons, in Syria or indeed anywhere else.

I agree with Russia that we should improve the JIM and refrain from politicizing it, and that action should be taken, including against any use of chemical weapons by non-State actors. That is why much work has been done, led by Spain and others, on strengthening our work under resolution 1540 (2004). What I do not think we should agree to is any distracting of the JIM away from its central mandate, which is to focus on the situation in Syria. Yes, the countries neighbouring Syria should cooperate with it — all countries should — but the JIM's mandate concerns attacks that have happened in Syria, whether perpetrated by the Syrian regime or Da'esh, and that should continue. There is a big difference between Syria, on the one hand, and countries such as Iraq and Turkey, on the other. It is only Syria that has used chemical weapons against its own people.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): France welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2314 (2016). France wholeheartedly supports the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) and therefore, of course, today's resolution, which enables us to extend the JIM's mandate until 18 November. We hope that this is simply a preparatory step before the full and complete renewal of the mandate for another year. We urge all Council members to commit immediately and in good faith to that effort.

The JIM's latest report (S/2016/888) leaves no more room for doubt. We know that the Syrian Arab Army and Da'esh have not hesitated to use chemical weapons against civilians in Syria on at least four separate occasions. In addition to the overwhelming evidence against the Syrian regime and Da'esh, this especially serious and unacceptable attack undermines the non-proliferation and our collective security as a whole.

Given such dire stakes, political divisions within the Council on the Syrian conflict must be set aside so that we can act. Given such dire stakes, action is not an option but a necessity, and it is our responsibility. We cannot allow violations of international law prohibiting chemical weapons and their use, and we cannot take the risk of allowing such actions to become commonplace. It is up to all members of the Security Council to shoulder their responsibilities pursuant to the commitment undertaken in establishing the Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM).

We need to draw all the appropriate lessons from the reports issued by the Mechanism and ensure that those crimes reported do not go unpunished. As Foreign Minister Ayrault has said repeatedly and openly, France is in favour of the eventual adoption of a resolution under Chapter VII to sanction the perpetrators of the chemical attacks, as identified by the JIM. Given the serious nature of those crimes, it is of paramount importance that we ensure that the JIM continues to

function so that any further resort to chemical weapons against civilians will be reported.

The Joint Investigative Mechanism has fully lived up to our expectations by reaching accurate findings in very difficult circumstances, despite failing to enjoy the full cooperation of all actors. The Mechanism was established upon a unanimous decision of the Security Council. There is therefore no question about its legitimacy. France commends the the commitment and professionalism of its members and the rigour and earnest of their methodology.

Let us call a spade a spade. If the Security Council is not in a position to shoulder its responsibilities vis-à-vis the proliferation and use of weapons of mass destruction — in this case, chemical weapons — against civilian populations, its credibility and utility will be at stake. France therefore calls on all members of the Security Council to come together, set aside our differences about the Syrian conflict to put a swift end to the use of chemical weapons and hold the perpetrators to account. When proliferation and the use of weapons of mass destruction are at stake, weakness and division for tactical purposes cannot be an option.

Mr. Shen Bo (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2314 (2016). China's position on chemical weapons is clear and consistent. We are strongly opposed to the use of chemical weapons by any State, organization or person in any circumstances.

China is deeply concerned about the use of chemicals as weapons in Syria against the civilian population and strongly condemns such use. China consistently advocates for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism to perform its functions in line with its mandate and in an objective, impartial and professional manner. We hope that the Joint Investigative Mechanism, while respecting the sovereignty of the countries concerned, will fully investigate and establish the facts regarding the use of chemicals as weapons.

China hopes that the Security Council will remain united on the question of chemical weapons in Syria and speak with one, positive voice so as to play a positive role in the final destruction of chemical weapons in Syria and the maintenance of peace and security in the country.

Political settlement is the only realistic way to resolve the Syrian question. The international community should adhere to the general direction of political settlement and comprehensively promote efforts on the four parallel tracks of ceasefire, peace talks, humanitarian relief and joint forces to combat terrorism. Through a Syrian-owned and led political process, it should facilitate the conclusion of an arrangement that addresses the interests of all parties concerned so as to reach a comprehensive, long-term and appropriate settlement of the Syrian question at an early date.

Mr. Yelchenko (Ukraine): We welcome the adoption of resolution 2314 (2016) and commend the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) for its efforts in executing its mandate based on the principles of impartiality, objectivity and independence. All four JIM reports have proved the importance of having the Mechanism in the future, since there are still many cases of possible use of chemical weapons in Syria, including in 2016, that deserve to be thoroughly investigated.

We are deeply concerned over the continuous allegations of the use of toxic substances as chemical weapons in Syria, which cause enormous suffering among civilians and are a blatant violation of international legal norms. Removing the threat of any use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic is an essential element in creating proper conditions for de-escalating tensions on the ground, tackling extremism and attaining a sustainable political solution to the crisis in a broader context. The international community must have full confidence that Syria has irreversibly abandoned its chemical weapons programme and that those responsible for organizing and committing horrible crimes using chemical weapons as a tool of war are held accountable.

To conclude, I would like to thank the Joint Investigative Mechanism for its efforts and significant contributions to deterring any further use of chemicals as weapons against the Syrian people. My delegation is ready to cooperate actively and in a constructive way in order to ensure that the JIM mandate will be further extended for a sufficient term in order to execute its crucial tasks, in accordance with paragraph 1 of the resolution adopted today.

Mr. Akahori (Japan): Japan is in favour of the renewal of the mandate of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) by 18 days while it considers a further extension. The JIM has conducted its work in an impartial, objective and independent manner and identified those responsible for the use of chemical weapons in four cases. On the other hand, it is very regrettable that another 14 allegations have been reported to the Joint Investigative Mechanism in the past 30 days, according to Ms. Gamba, Head of the JIM.

The international norm of prohibiting chemical weapons must remain solid. We need to continue efforts to uncover the whole picture of the alleged uses of chemical weapons in Syria and hold accountable those responsible. The JIM still has a major role to play. Japan is in favour of a further extension of the JIM mandate beyond the 18 days and intends to be actively engaged in the Council's consideration.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): On behalf of the delegation of the Russian Federation, I would like to express sincere appreciation to the members of the Council, especially my colleagues the Permanent Representatives, their Deputies and colleagues, as well as the staff of the secretariat of the Security Council, for all of the support that they have given to us.

In this busy month, we have managed to reach consensus on several important issues, although not all. We could not have done it alone or without the hard work, support and constructive contributions of every delegation and representative of the secretariat, as well as the interpreters, translators, meeting services and sound engineers, in addition to security officers, who kept the Council safe this month.

As we end our presidency, I know I speak on behalf of the Council in wishing the delegation of Senegal good luck in the month of November.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7799

Security Council

Seventy-first year

Provisional

7799th meeting

Tuesday, 1 November 2016, 3.15 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Seck	(Senegal)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	China	Mr. Shen Bo
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Japan	Mr. Bessho
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Spain	Mr. Gasso Matoses
	Ukraine	Mr. Vitrenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Uruguay	Mr. Rossellii
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Graterol

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

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16-35572 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the outgoing President

The President (*spoke in French*): As this is the first public meeting of the Council for the month of November, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, for his service as President of the Council for the month of October. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Churkin and his delegation for the great diplomatic skill with which they conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Lebanon to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its the agenda.

After consultations among Council members, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf:

"The Security Council recalls all its previous resolutions and the statements of its President on the situation in Lebanon, including its statement of 22 July 2016 (S/PRST/2016/10). The Security Council reaffirms its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon, in accordance with resolutions 1701 (2006), 1680 (2006) and 1559 (2004).

"The Security Council welcomes the election of the President of the Republic of Lebanon, Michel Aoun, in accordance with the Lebanese Constitution. The election is a long-awaited and critical step to overcome Lebanon's political and institutional crisis. The Security Council urges the new President of the Republic of Lebanon and Lebanese leaders to build on their efforts thus far by continuing to work constructively to promote the country's stability and by swiftly forming a Government.

"The Security Council stresses that the formation of a Unity Government and the election of a parliament by May 2017, in accordance with the Constitution, are critical for Lebanon's stability and resilience to withstand regional challenges. The Security Council encourages all parties in Lebanon to demonstrate renewed unity and determination to that end, in order to ensure Lebanon's ability to address the growing security, economic, social and humanitarian challenges facing the country.

"The Security Council affirms that the preservation of Lebanon's stability is essential to regional stability and security. The Security Council underscores its previous calls on all Lebanese parties to recommit to Lebanon's policy of dissociation and to cease any involvement in the Syrian crisis, consistent with their commitment in the Baabda Declaration.

"The Security Council commends Prime Minister Tammam Salam for his leadership throughout the difficult period and his efforts to enable the Government to function effectively without a President. The Security Council further commends Speaker Nabih Berri for his efforts at fostering continued dialogue among all Lebanese parties.

"The Security Council expresses its appreciation for the International Support Group for Lebanon and calls on the international community, including international organizations, to ensure continued support to Lebanon in addressing the economic, security and humanitarian challenges facing the country. The Security Council reiterates its support to the Special Coordinator for Lebanon, and encourages her to pursue her good offices role in this crucial period for Lebanon, in close coordination with the International Support Group."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2016/15.

The meeting rose at 3.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7800

Security Council

Seventy-first year

Provisional

7800th meeting

Wednesday, 2 November 2016, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Seck	(Senegal)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	China	Mr. Shen Bo
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Japan	Mr. Okamura
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	New Zealand	Mr. Taula
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Spain	Mr. González de Linares Palou
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Suárez Moreno

Agenda

The situation in the Great Lakes region

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region (S/2016/840)

Letter dated 4 October 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2016/891)

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16-35692 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Great Lakes region

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region (S/2016/840)

Letter dated 4 October 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2016/891)

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Said Djinnit, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Great Lakes Region, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2016/840, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, and to document S/2016/891, which contains a letter dated 4 October 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

I now give the floor to Mr. Djinnit.

Mr. Djinnit (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region (S/2016/840), covering the period from 9 March to 20 September. I am overjoyed to deliver this briefing on the Great Lakes region under the Senegalese presidency of the Security Council, which attests to the importance that Senegal continues to attach to the consolidation of peace and stability in that region.

(*spoke in English*)

During the period under review, the signatory countries continued overall to make efforts to implement their commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, despite outstanding challenges, including the continued presence and activities of negative forces in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Yet, there have been renewed efforts to tackle this persistent problem. The cooperation between the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was enhanced in carrying out joint operations against negative forces in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, including against the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). In addition, the representatives of the guarantor institutions of the Framework Agreement — the United Nations, the African Union (AU), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) — conducted a series of initiatives, including regional consultations and field visits, to support efforts to neutralize the negative forces.

These led, first, to the convening in Kinshasa of two evaluation meetings of the implementation of the Nairobi Declarations in May and June between representatives of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and a delegation of the former Mouvement du 23 mars; and secondly, the holding of a meeting, convened by my Office, of the Ministers of Defence of some States members of ICGLR and SADC, in Nairobi on 20 July, to discuss ways and means of strengthening ongoing efforts aimed at neutralizing negative forces. Furthermore, in implementation of a recent decision of the ICGLR summit in Luanda, concerned countries of the region have also been working on the establishment and operationalization of a joint follow-up mechanism to address the growing threat posed by ADF in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and across the region.

Progress was also achieved in strengthening judicial cooperation in the region and in investigating and prosecuting cases of violations of human rights, including sexual and gender-based violence. I am pleased to note in this regard that, as a result of the joint efforts of my Office, ICGLR, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Great Lakes Regional judicial cooperation network will be launched in Nairobi on 10 November. The network, comprising representatives of States members of the ICGLR, with the support

of regional and international organizations, will contribute to combating impunity in the Great Lakes region by building trust and confidence among member States and promoting the effective implementation of the regional commitments on judicial cooperation.

Supporting women, youth and civil society has continued to be an important objective to my Office, as demonstrated by the convening of an important meeting of the Women's Platform for the Framework Agreement in Goma on 12 July.

During the period under review, considerable efforts were deployed to promote inclusive dialogue processes in the region, including in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In liaison with my colleague Special Representative of the Secretary-General Sidikou, and in accordance with resolution 2277 (2016), we have taken a number of initiatives and deployed sustained efforts, including through regular engagements with national stakeholders, as well as regional and international actors, and the establishment of the international support group to promote inclusive dialogue in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as facilitated by Mr. Edem Kodjo on behalf of the African Union.

I have also been following closely the situation in Burundi. On 17 October, I visited former President Benjamin Mkapa in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to seek his candid assessment of the status and the challenges faced in the inter-Burundian dialogue. I encouraged him to pursue his efforts aimed at creating conditions for inclusive dialogue under the auspices of the East African Community. I am pleased to note that the facilitator intends to intensify his formal and informal contacts with Burundian stakeholders and the leaders of the region. I further encouraged the efforts of the East African Community on the occasion of a meeting I had with President Museveni in Entebbe on 19 October.

Less than a week ago, I was in Luanda for the seventh high-level meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism on 26 October, chaired by President José Eduardo dos Santos. This seventh meeting had a symbolic value, as it was the first to be hosted by a signatory country. The meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism in Luanda was held as a result of the reform process of the governing structures of the Framework Agreement, initiated last year and endorsed by the sixth meeting of the Mechanism in New York in September 2015 and by the sixth Ordinary Summit of ICGLR in June 2016.

I am pleased to report that there was a good high-level participation in the Regional Oversight Mechanism in Luanda, which demonstrates the continued interest in and commitment to the Framework Agreement. I wish to express here my sincere gratitude to President Dos Santos for hosting this important event and for setting in motion the process to strengthen the ownership of signatory countries in the implementation of the Agreement. I wish also to thank President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo for the offer to host the next high-level meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism in 2017. Other signatory countries have also expressed interest in hosting future meetings of the Mechanism and its Technical Support Committee.

The Regional Oversight Mechanism meeting reviewed and endorsed the progress report on the implementation of the commitments under the Framework Agreement, which was extensively discussed by the Technical Support Committee and the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. It also discussed challenges in dialogue and elections processes in the region, notably in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Regional Oversight Mechanism welcomed the signing on 18 October of the comprehensive political agreement on the organization of peaceful, credible and transparent elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; called on all parties to seek peaceful solutions to the political crisis, in line with the constitution of the country and resolution 2277 (2016); and, in this respect, encouraged the Government and other stakeholders to take additional confidence-building measures.

I seize this opportunity to reiterate the call of the Secretary-General on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue to engage with all political stakeholders, including those who reject the recent round of talks and the resultant agreement, and to take additional confidence-building measures with a view to seeking an inclusive process. I equally urge all stakeholders to pursue their political objectives through peaceful means and dialogue.

Concerning the situation in Burundi, the Regional Oversight Mechanism called on all Burundians to seek peaceful solutions to addressing grievances and to commit to inclusive dialogue, and extended full

cooperation to the East African Community facilitator with a view to expediting the dialogue process.

The conflict situations in South Sudan and the Central African Republic also featured in the discussions at the Regional Oversight Mechanism. In particular, the Mechanism recognized the potential of the presence of elements of the Sudan People's Liberation Movemen/Army in Opposition (SPLM-I0) to further exacerbate existing tensions and the security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The leaders urged the region, the States member of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the AU and the United Nations to assist the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in finding a durable solution for the removal of the SPLM-I0 elements from the Democratic Republic of the Congo as soon as possible.

On the Central African Republic, the Regional Oversight Mechanism welcomed the efforts of the Government to promote reconciliation and called on all armed groups to engage in dialogue with national authorities so as to ensure peace and stability. In a statement made on that occasion, the Prime Minister of the Central African Republic expressed support and appreciation for the work of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, in a context of renewed tension in some parts of the country.

With regard to the negative forces, the Regional Oversight Mechanism endorsed the recommendations adopted at the 20 July meeting of Ministers of Defence and welcomed the establishment of the joint follow-up mechanism on the ADF. Furthermore, the leaders of the region encouraged efforts aimed at promoting the role of women in peace and development processes; welcomed the declaration of the Framework Women's Platform, issued in Goma on 12 July; and directed their respective national institutions to follow up on its effective implementation.

Finally, the Mechanism welcomed efforts aimed at promoting regional economic integration, including the successful holding of the first Great Lakes Private Sector Investment Conference, held in Kinshasa in February 2016, and encouraged follow-up actions to promote the role of the private sector in support of peace and stability in the region.

It is my hope that the decisions taken by the Regional Oversight Mechanism Summit last week will be followed by vigorous and decisive action on the part of all stakeholders. This is particularly crucial as developments in the region, including challenges related to elections and the threat posed by negative forces, continue to highlight its fragility. Concerted efforts are needed to avert any reversal of the commendable gains achieved thus far. For my part, I will continue to work with the countries of the region, the guarantors and other stakeholders to ensure appropriate follow-up action of the decisions of the Summit, enhance the implementation of the Framework agreement and encourage cooperation in the region.

(*spoke in French*)

I should like to conclude by thanking Council members for their unstinting support for the Great Lakes region and for my efforts as Special Envoy. As the Council is aware, my Office was the subject of a strategic review carried out by the Department of Political Affairs pursuant to resolution 2277 (2016). I hope that the Council will welcome the recommendations emanating from the review, which are aimed at strengthening the smooth functioning and effectiveness of the Office so as to enable it better to assist this dynamic and complex region in the implementation of the Framework agreement and the achievement of its goals of bringing about lasting peace, security and stability.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Djinnit for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to the member of the Council who wishes to make a statement.

Mr. Bermúdez (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, I wish once again to convey to you and your team my delegation's wish that you will enjoy a very successful presidency of the Security Council during the month of November.

I should like first to thank the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region, Mr. Said Djinnit, for his presence here today and for the information that he has provided us.

Almost four years after the adoption of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, Uruguay would like to acknowledge the efforts and the commitment of the signatories and the guarantors to implement the provisions of the agreement. The convening of several high-level meetings in the past

few months, including, inter alia, the sixth Ordinary Summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, held in Luanda in June, as well as last week's meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, testify to the validity and the relevance of the provisions of the Framework agreement, which is both a political and a diplomatic platform established to tackle the challenges that loom large over the Great Lakes region.

Despite the aforementioned progress in the implementation of the agreement, I should like to stress that the process of achieving lasting peace and security in the Great Lakes region continues to face major political, security and humanitarian challenges. As the report of the Secretary-General (S/2016/840) rightly indicates, the key here is the effective neutralization of the armed groups that are threatening stability. In this context, I would stress the fragile security situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is threatened principally by the actions of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda and the Allied Democratic Forces.

The humanitarian situation in the Great Lakes region is also a source of deep concern. Several countries of the region, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, South Sudan and the Central African Republic, are confronted with grave humanitarian issues, with millions of displaced persons whose most basic humanitarian needs remain unmet.

On the political front, the dialogues launched in certain countries of the region have not yet yielded any significant results. Nonetheless, we would reiterate how important it is that in all cases the political dialogue be open, inclusive and peaceful; bring together all stakeholders; and guarantee protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. We must not tire of reiterating that dialogue is the only option for resolving differences.

Against that backdrop, Uruguay calls on the Governments of the region and the international community as a whole to pool their efforts to foster political and social stability in the Great Lakes region, with strict adherence to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of neighbouring countries and a renewed commitment not to tolerate, or provide assistance and support of any kind, to the armed groups that are active in the region. They must also ensure the protection of civilians and respect for the human rights of all inhabitants without distinction.

Uruguay takes note of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's letter dated 4 October 2016 (S/2016/891) on the strengthening of the role of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region. On this point, we would like to indicate that my delegation deems several of the recommendations therein to be extremely relevant and deserving of due consideration by the Security Council.

Finally, given that today is 2 November, the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, we would like to convey a message of solidarity and express our appreciation for the work done by journalists, especially that which provides us with information on conflicts and political processes. A great deal of that information, given the transparency and passionate sincerity with which journalists carry out their work, is in most cases very useful to the work of the Security Council.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7801

Security Council

Seventy-first year

Provisional

7801st meeting

Thursday, 3 November 2016, 2.50 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Seck	(Senegal)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Casimiro
	China	Mr. Shen Bo
	Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Japan	Mr. Akahori
	Malaysia	Ms. Razi
	New Zealand	Mr. Wright
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zagaynov
	Spain	Ms. Pedrozo
	Ukraine	Mr. Vitrenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Meek
	United States of America	Mr. Gee
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Graterol

Agenda

The situation in Mali

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The meeting was called to order at 2.50 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Mali

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Following consultations among members of the Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf:

"The Security Council strongly condemns the repeated violations of the ceasefire arrangements by the Plateforme and Coordination armed groups in and around Kidal over the last months, which threaten the viability of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. The Security Council urges the signatory armed groups to cease hostilities immediately, to strictly adhere to the ceasefire arrangements and to resume dialogue without delay for the implementation of the Agreement.

"The security Council urges the Government of Mali, the Plateforme and Coordination armed groups to fully and sincerely maintain their commitments under the Agreement. The Security Council recalls its readiness to consider targeted sanctions against those who take actions to obstruct the implementation of the Agreement as well as those who resume hostilities and violate the ceasefire, as expressed in its resolution 2295 (2016).

"The Security Council acknowledges the steps taken by signatory parties over the last year to implement the Agreement, welcomes the progress towards establishing interim administrations in the north of Mali and expresses its deep concern over the persistent delays for the full implementation of the Agreement. The Security Council underscores the pressing need to deliver tangible and visible peace dividends to the population in the north and other parts of Mali in order to keep the momentum of the Agreement.

"The Security Council urges the Government of Mali, the Plateforme and Coordination armed groups to take urgent and concrete action to fully deliver on their obligations under the Agreement without further delay, in particular to deploy joint security patrols, to accomplish the process of establishing interim administrations in the north of Mali, to operationalize the commissions for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed combatants, and to accelerate the redeployment of the Malian Defence and Security Forces throughout the country within the framework of the Agreement.

"The Security Council urges the Government of Mali to engage with the Secretary- General, through his Special Representative for Mali, to establish concrete benchmarks and timelines to assess the progress towards the full implementation of the Agreement and recalls its request to the Secretary-General to include them in his December 2016 report.

"The security Council calls on members of the Comité de suivi de l'Accord and other relevant international partners to sustain their support to the implementation of the Agreement. The Security Council emphasizes the central role the Special Representative of the Secretary-General should continue to play to support and oversee the implementation of the Agreement by the Government of Mali, the Plateforme and Coordination armed groups.

"The Security Council encourages bilateral and multilateral partners to increase their support to accelerate the redeployment of the Malian Defence and Security Forces, once reformed and reconstituted, to the north of Mali, particularly by providing relevant equipment and training, in coordination with the Government of Mali and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and within the framework of the Agreement.

"The Security Council reiterates its concern over the expansion of terrorist and other criminal activities across Mali, and in particular into central and southern Mali, as well as the intensification of intercommunal violence in the centre of Mali. The Security Council emphasizes that the Malian authorities have primary responsibility for the provision of stability and security throughout the territory of Mali.

"The Security Council strongly condemns the continuing attacks, including terrorist attacks,

against the Malian defence and security forces, MINUSMA and the French forces. The Security Council underlines the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice. The Security Council urges the Government of Mali to take measures to ensure that those responsible for these attacks are held accountable.

"The Security Council acknowledges the significant capability gaps within MINUSMA and underlines its request to the Secretary-General to expeditiously identify options and take all appropriate additional measures to enable MINUSMA to fully implement its mandate and to ensure the safety and security of its personnel. The Security Council urges Member States to urgently provide adequate capabilities to MINUSMA, in particular aviation and transportation capabilities, to fill in these gaps.

"The Security Council reiterates its serious concern over the insecurity which hinders humanitarian access, condemns attacks against humanitarian personnel and emphasizes the need for all parties to respect the principles of humanitarian assistance — humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence — in order to ensure the continued provision of humanitarian assistance. The Security Council also emphasizes the need for all parties to ensure the safety and protection of civilians receiving assistance and the security of humanitarian personnel operating in Mali.

"The Security Council calls on Member States in the region, notably through the Group of Five for the Sahel and the African Union Nouakchott Process, to advance their cooperation with MINUSMA in order to strengthen regional security and facilitate the implementation of its mandate."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2016/16.

The meeting rose at 3 p.m.